

Utility Patent Application

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

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COMBINATION TORCH SNUFFER AND COVER

RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present invention was first described in Disclosure Document Number 480,136 filed on September 21, 2000. There are no previously filed, nor currently any co-pending applications, anywhere in the world.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to removably mounted cover for flame holders and the like and, more particularly, to a flexible, drawstring cover for use in snuffing and/or protectively covering an otherwise conventional garden torch lamp.

2. Description of the Related Art

"Tikki Torches" or patio torches have been in use for years to provide light for outdoor nighttime activities in backyards, parks and campgrounds across the country. In addition to the light they provide, they also lend a festive air to the activities that cannot be duplicated with electric light sources. However, as much fun and useful as these patio torches are, they are limited by a short life span. They must be replaced on an almost regular basis due to the decay and destruction of the bamboo or wood-based torch holder on the upper end of the pole. This destruction is mainly caused by rain, dirt, exposure to the sun's rays, insects and other similar forces present in an outside environment. This destruction is accelerated if the torch is always left outside, even when not in use for long periods of time.

A search of the prior art did not disclose any patents that read directly on the claims of the instant invention; however, the following references were considered related.

The following patents disclose a liquid fuel apparatus having a fuel container:

U.S. Patent no. 5,938,430 issued in the name of *Majerowski*
U.S. Patent no. 5,547,371 issued in the name of *Rose*
U.S. Patent no. 4,544,348 issued in the name of *Boij*
U.S. Patent no. 3,290,907 issued in the name of *Boij et al.*

U.S. Patent no. 5,904,476 issued in the name of *Hoffman* describes a chafing dish fuel canister with a snuffing device.

U.S. Patent no. 5,807,093 issued in the name of *Tendick, Sr.* discloses a flameguard for receiving an outdoor torch.

5 U.S. Patent no. 5,205,730 issued in the name of *Capdeville* describes a garden torch with a removable container.

10 And, U.S. Patent no. 4,477,247 issued in the name of *Kumasaka* discloses a liquid fuel burning torch with a snuffer cap.

Consequently, a need has been felt for providing an apparatus and method which overcomes there is a need for a means by which patio torches can be protected from environmental elements when not in use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

15 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an improved cover for a patio torch.

It is a feature of the present invention to provide an improved cover for a patio torch that functions also as a torch snuffing device.

Briefly described according to one embodiment of the present invention, a cover for outdoor patio torches is provided that prevents the entrance of rain,

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dust and other undesirables while the torch is not in use. The cover resembles a small pouch-like affair approximately 10" wide and 12" long, made of black vinyl to protect against ultraviolet light damage. After a patio torch has been extinguished and had a chance to cool, the pouch is simply placed over the upper part of the torch in an inverted manner. A drawstring closure means, now located on the bottom of the invention, is simply pulled close and secured with a plastic clip or a knot.

10 The use of the present invention provides a means to protect and extend the useful life of patio torches in a manner which is quick, easy and effective.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The advantages and features of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following more detailed description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are identified with like symbols, and in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a patio torch according to the PRIOR ART;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a combination torch snuffer and cover according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 3 is a perspective view of a combination torch snuffer and cover

according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention shown affixed to a patio torch of type according to the PRIOR ART.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

5 The best mode for carrying out the invention is presented in terms of its preferred embodiment, herein depicted within the Figures

1. Detailed Description of the Figures

Referring now to FIG. 1-3, a cover 10 according to the present invention is shown for use with outdoor patio torches 12 such as to prevent the entrance of rain, dust and other undesirables while the torch 12 is not in use. Designed to enclose the torch 12, wick 14, and wick cap 16, the cover 10 has a generally cylindrical outer housing 20 closed at the upper end by an upper housing cover 22 opposite an entry orifice 24 at the lower end. In order to accommodate the intended use, the internal retention volume 26 formed within the housing 20 is approximately 10" wide and 12" long. Both the upper housing cover 22 and the cylindrical outer housing 20 are formed of light impenetrable material, such as

black vinyl, to protect against ultraviolet light damage.

Formed about the lower circumference of the outer housing 20 near the entry orifice 24 is a circumscribing conduit 30 having a conduit entry 32 through

which a drawstring 36 can enter and exit in a manner such as to entirely circumscribe the lower portion of the cylindrical outer housing 20. A drawstring retention means 38, shown herein as a spring clip, impinges against the loose ends of the drawstring for retention of mechanical impingement applied to the drawstring 36.

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2. Operation of the Preferred Embodiment

In operation, after a patio torch has been extinguished and had a chance to cool, the pouch is simply placed over the upper part of the torch in an inverted manner. A drawstring closure means, now located on the bottom of the invention, is simply pulled close and secured with a plastic clip or a knot.

The foregoing description is included to illustrate the operation of the preferred embodiment and is not meant to limit the scope of the invention. The scope of the invention is to be limited only by the following claims.

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